

Amendments to the Specification:

Below is the marked up amended specification paragraph from page 5, lines 3 – 10:

C¹ (Previously Amended) Steel fibers with a diameter of 2 μ m are obtained by means of the technique of bundled drawing, such as described in US-A-3,379,000. ~~The bundled drawn steel fibers are delivered to~~ A first non-woven web is then produced by means of a random-feeder apparatus which. ~~The random-feeder apparatus transforms the steel fibers into a web such as disclosed in GB 1 190 844 (which corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 3,469,297). In an alternative embodiment, the drawn steel fibers may be individualized to some extent before being delivered to the random-feeder apparatus, such as by a carding operation.~~ The web is then sintered separately and compacted by means of a cold isostatic pressing operation carried out at a pressure higher than 2000 bar to obtain a porosity lower than 55 %, e.g. lower than 50 %, e.g. 46 %. This results in the first layer 12.